

Rep. Brad Miller Votes to Create Small Business Jobs; Praises North Carolina Businesses on House Floor as Successful Models

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Washington, DC - Today, **Rep. Brad Miller (NC-13)** voted to create new jobs and boost the economy by supporting small business innovation in research and technology. The Small Business Research and Innovation Act is part of the long-term economic blueprint to spur job creation by encouraging America's entrepreneurs to innovate toward breakthrough technological advancements.

"America can and should be the most innovative and productive economy in the world," said **Rep. Miller**. "Our great strength is the American people--the American worker, the American entrepreneur, the

American scientist.

The SBIR and STTR programs tap directly into these great American resources, to the benefit of us all."

The bill modernizes the government's largest small business research and development programs, the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, more than doubling the amount of the grants small businesses can apply for and helping them engage in cutting-edge research.

The Small Business Research and Innovation Act will broaden the pool of businesses that participate in the programs by reaching out to rural entrepreneurs, veterans, minorities and women. The bill will make it easier for small businesses to find financing, allowing them, not Washington bureaucrats, to decide how to raise capital. It also puts a greater emphasis on helping smaller firms bring their products to market.

Since 1992, the SBIR and STTR programs have awarded 65,000 grants to small companies that are leading research efforts to cure diseases, strengthen national defense and reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources. Without action by Congress, these programs will expire later this month.

Click <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUi6Sm5HmtU> to

view

Rep. Miller's remarks on the House floor today. The Congressman praises Geophex and 3Phoenix, two successful small business models in North Carolina, in support of the bill.

The full text of Rep. Miller's

remarks:



*Mr. Speaker, I am pleased
to rise today in support of*

HR 2965 The Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act.



*This bill will reauthorize
and strengthen two
programs that are*

*important drivers of
American innovation and
economic development.□*

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*he Small Business
Innovation Research
program (SBIR) and the
Small Business
Technology Transfer
(STTR) program.*



These programs help to ensure that our small, innovative businesses and our universities play a key role in the federal government's research and

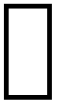
development efforts. □ □

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*Nationwide, small
businesses employ
half of the private*

sector workforce and create almost 80 percent of all new jobs. Small businesses are one of our country's primary sources of innovation; they drive advances in virtually every industry in America's

economy.



*A company in my
district called*

Geophex was awarded an SBIR grant from NASA in 2000. The purpose of the grant was to develop a sensor that could detect electromagnetic changes beneath a

*planet's surface, for
up to 30 feet.*



*NASA was
interested in that
sensor to discover if
there was water
beneath the surface
of other planets.
Now I know that*

making a sensor for the specific purpose of discovering water on another planet is not by itself going to lead to much new economic development.

□

But through

*commercialization,
Geophex has found
other practical
application here on
Earth.*



*Their sensor has
been used by the
Department of
Defense to help*

*detect mines on land
and in the water; it is
used by construction
companies to help
detect electric wires
and water pipes
buried underground,
and it has been used
to detect new
sources of water,*

right here on earth.



*I recently visited
another company in*

*my district, called
3Phoenix. 3Phoen
ix has received
several awards
under these
programs.*

□

*From one of these
they have*

developed the technology to synchronize data from different sensors, technology which is being used by the Navy to help detect periscopes in the water at a long

distance.



*This technology is
also being
commercialized to
help drivers find the
closest parking
space in a crowded
downtown, helping*

*to relieve traffic,
reduce emissions
and driver
frustration.*



*For an SBIR
investment of
\$832,000, this
technology is*

expected to bring in new revenue of \$8.93 million.

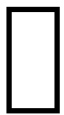


After only 6 years in existence 3Phoenix now employs more than 70 people and they plan to expand

*to 100 employees
in the next 2 years.*



*These are real jobs,
with good salaries,
something that is
sorely needed in
these tough
economic times.*



*America can and
should be the most
innovative and*

*productive
economy in the
world. Our great
strength is the
American
people--the
American worker,
the American
entrepreneur, the*

American scientist.



*The SBIR and
STTR programs
tap directly into
these great
American
resources, to the
benefit of us all.*



*Today's bill will
help make these
programs work*

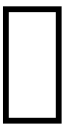
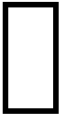
*more efficiently, it
will help to
increase access
to capital for small
businesses, and it
will help to get
even more
products to*

*market in order to
create more jobs.*

□ □

*I pleased to
support bill and
the
reauthorization of
these two very*

*important
programs.*



*Mr. Speaker, I
yield back the
balance of my
time.*



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